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| Notice of Allowability | Application No. | Applicant(s) | |
| | 10/697,131 | UNGSTAD, STEVE JAMES | |
| | Examiner | Art Unit | |
| | Linh M. Nguyen | 2816 | |

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address--

All claims being allowable, PROSECUTION ON THE MERITS IS (OR REMAINS) CLOSED in this application. If not included herewith (or previously mailed), a Notice of Allowance (PTOL-85) or other appropriate communication will be mailed in due course. **THIS NOTICE OF ALLOWABILITY IS NOT A GRANT OF PATENT RIGHTS.** This application is subject to withdrawal from issue at the initiative of the Office or upon petition by the applicant. See 37 CFR 1.313 and MPEP 1308.

1. ☒ This communication is responsive to applicant's amendment filed 03/15/05.
2. ☒ The allowed claim(s) is/are 1,2,4-7 and 9-14.
3. ☒ The drawings filed on 30 October 2003 are accepted by the Examiner.
4. ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
 - a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some* c) ☐ None of the:
 1. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
 2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
 3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this national stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* Certified copies not received: _____.

Applicant has THREE MONTHS FROM THE "MAILING DATE" of this communication to file a reply complying with the requirements noted below. Failure to timely comply will result in ABANDONMENT of this application.
THIS THREE-MONTH PERIOD IS NOT EXTENDABLE.

5. ☐ A SUBSTITUTE OATH OR DECLARATION must be submitted. Note the attached EXAMINER'S AMENDMENT or NOTICE OF INFORMAL PATENT APPLICATION (PTO-152) which gives reason(s) why the oath or declaration is deficient.
 6. ☐ CORRECTED DRAWINGS (as "replacement sheets") must be submitted.
 - (a) ☐ including changes required by the Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) attached
 - 1) ☐ hereto or 2) ☐ to Paper No./Mail Date _____.
 - (b) ☐ including changes required by the attached Examiner's Amendment / Comment or in the Office action of Paper No./Mail Date _____.
- Identifying indicia such as the application number (see 37 CFR 1.84(c)) should be written on the drawings in the front (not the back) of each sheet. Replacement sheet(s) should be labeled as such in the header according to 37 CFR 1.121(d).
7. ☐ DEPOSIT OF and/or INFORMATION about the deposit of BIOLOGICAL MATERIAL must be submitted. Note the attached Examiner's comment regarding REQUIREMENT FOR THE DEPOSIT OF BIOLOGICAL MATERIAL.

Attachment(s)

- | | |
|---|--|
| <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of References Cited (PTO-892) 2. <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) 3. <input type="checkbox"/> Information Disclosure Statements (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08), Paper No./Mail Date _____ 4. <input type="checkbox"/> Examiner's Comment Regarding Requirement for Deposit of Biological Material | <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 5. <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152) 6. <input type="checkbox"/> Interview Summary (PTO-413), Paper No./Mail Date _____ 7. <input type="checkbox"/> Examiner's Amendment/Comment 8. <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Examiner's Statement of Reasons for Allowance 9. <input type="checkbox"/> Other _____ |
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DETAILED ACTION

Allowable Subject Matter

1. Claims 1-2, 4-7 and 9-14 are allowed.

Reasons for Allowance

2. The following is an examiner's statement of reasons for allowance:

The closest prior art fails to disclose or fairly suggest:

- A method of distributing clock including the step of providing a return line geometrically matched to the transmission line, as called for in claim 1;
- A method of distributing clock including the step of obtaining the returned clock signal by sensing a reflection of the output clock signal on the transmission line, as called for in claim 2;
- A method of distributing clock further including the step of comprising buffering the output of the voltage controlled oscillator and providing a build out impedance to match the transmission-line impedance, as called for in claim 7;
- The clock distribution circuit further including circuitry to detect the returned clock signal as a reflected clock signal on the transmission line, as called for in claim 9;
- The clock distribution circuit further including a signal return line separate from the transmission line, in which the returned clock signal is sensed from the signal return line, as called for in claim 10;
- A clock distribution circuit including second circuitry that propagates the first output clock signal onto a second transmission line based on the average the output of the third phase

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detector and the fourth phase detector, in combination with the remaining claimed limitations, as called for in independent claim 12;

- A method of distributing a reference clock signal, the method including the steps of a) Sensing a reflected clock signal at the beginning of the transmission line, and b) adjusting the output clock signal based on an average of a first phase difference between the output clock signal and the reference clock signal and a second phase difference between the reflected clock signal and the reference clock signal, as called for in independent claim 13; and

- A method of distributing a reference clock signal, the method including the steps of a) sensing a returned clock signal at the end of a signal return line matched to the transmission line, and b) adjusting the output clock signal based on an average of a first phase difference between the output clock signal and the reference clock signal and a second phase difference between the returned clock signal and the reference clock signal, as called for in independent claim 14.

Any comments considered necessary by applicant must be submitted no later than the payment of the issue fee and, to avoid processing delays, should preferably accompany the issue fee. Such submissions should be clearly labeled "Comments on Statement of Reasons for Allowance."

Inquiry

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Linh M. Nguyen whose telephone number is (571) 272-1749. The examiner can normally be reached on Alternate Fri, Monday - Thursday from 7:00 to 4:30.

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If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Timothy P. Callahan can be reached on (571) 272-1740. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 703-872-9306.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free).

Linh M. Nguyen
Primary Examiner
Art Unit 2816

LMN

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Linh M. Nguyen', with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.